

Weekly National Intelligence

WASHINGTON: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1864.

Weekly National Intelligence.

By GALES & SEATON.
JAMES C. WELLES, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1864.

THE CANADIAN COMPLICATION.

Our readers are aware that Mr. Justice COUNSEL, sitting at Montreal on the case of "the St. Albans raiders," has ordered the release of the parties accused, on the ground that he had no jurisdiction in the case under the circumstances in which it came before him.

It appears that the deprecators had been arrested on magistrates' warrants issued at the Judge's own motion, whereas it is contended that the revised act of Parliament ruling the case, as one arising between the United States and Great Britain under the extradition treaty, requires that the warrant under which the prisoners were arrested should be signed by the Governor General. This formality, it seems, was wanting, and on this merely technical ground the Judge dismissed the case, and ordered the release of the parties, notwithstanding other indictments were pending against them.

In this ruling the English Judge seems to have acted on a very narrow and restricted view of his duty, as if aiming rather to favor the escape of the prisoners than to sustain the ends of public justice. That this is the impression of Gen. DIX, commanding in the Northeastern Department, is made sufficiently apparent by his order, under the date of the 14th instant, directing "all military commanders on the frontier, in case further acts of depredation and murder are attempted, whether by marauders or persons acting under commissions from the rebel authorities at Richmond, to shoot down the perpetrators, if possible, while in the commission of their crimes, and if it be necessary, with a view to their capture, to cross the boundary between the United States and Canada, said commanders are hereby directed to pursue them wherever they may take refuge, and if captured they are under no circumstances to be surrendered, but are to be sent to these headquarters for trial and punishment by martial law."

In like manner, Mr. CHANDLER has introduced into the Senate a resolution directing the Committee on Military Affairs in that body to inquire into the expediency of immediately enlisting an army corps to watch and defend our territory bordering on the Lakes and Canadian line from all hostile demonstrations and incursions. He also introduced an additional resolution requesting the Secretary of State to make out a list of each ship and cargo thus destroyed by the insurgent ships of war, with a fair and separate valuation thereof, and interest thereon at the rate of six per cent. per annum, from the date of capture or destruction to the date of presentation, and directing him to demand from the British Government payment in full for all ships and cargoes destroyed as aforesaid.

It will be denied by none that a gross violation of neutrality was committed by the parties who abused the hospitality of the territory of Canada for the purpose of making a descent on the territory of the United States. And it seems to us that the conduct of the British judge betrayed something less excusable than a want of perspicacity in the execution of the extradition treaty. But for shortcomings of this kind, on the part of the British authorities in Canada, it seems to us that reparation might better be sought at the hands of the British Government through our Department of State, than to put it in the power of any commander, more or less discreet, to take the law into his own hands by invading the territory of Canada for the purpose of arresting the deprecators. It will be remembered by most of our readers that when the United States steamer Adirondack continued the chase of the British vessel, the Herald, (understood to be engaged in violating our blockade,) within the line of the marine jurisdiction of New Providence, Mr. Seward characterized the conduct of the commander of the Adirondack as "an inexcusable violation of the law of nations, for which acknowledgment and reparation ought to be promptly made." When our "fillibusters" under Walker, in violation of our laws, fitted out expeditions against Nicaragua and actually invaded that State, it is to be presumed that we should have resisted the claim of Nicaragua to pursue and capture her invaders on our own soil. It is known that Commodore Paulding incurred the censure of some parties in our country for pursuing and arresting such deprecators within the jurisdiction of the State they were wronging.

MOVEMENTS IN SPECIE.

The New York Journal of Commerce argues, in regard to the American production of gold, that we are losing largely each year from the country, and our statistics show such a result beyond question. Since the first of January, 1863, we have received at New York from California, up to December 1st, 1864, in specie, \$29,909,524. Some time from foreign ports, 3,679,275. And have exported to foreign ports, \$36,588,799. 64,454,610. Loss at the port of New York, \$36,965,811. No other port, it is stated, shows any gain between imports and exports. In California there is undoubtedly a small addition to the local circulation, but the bulk of the production not brought to New York has been exported directly from San Francisco to some foreign port. The total exports from San Francisco from January 1st, 1863, to latest date, were \$95,326,340, of which only the amount above noticed came to New York.

GEN. DIX'S ORDER.

We yesterday reproduced the order in which Gen. DIX announces that the President of the United States had disapproved of that portion of his recent General Order which instructed all military commanders on the Canada frontier, in certain cases therein specified, to cross the boundary line between the two countries in pursuit of insurgent "raiders" or deprecators on our territory. To this announcement Gen. DIX added, that in case of any future marauding expedition into our territory from Canada, military commanders on the frontier shall report to his headquarters at New York city for orders "before crossing the boundary line in pursuit of the guilty parties."

The reader who has given an attentive perusal to what we have written on the subject will be prepared to understand that we entirely approve the decision of the President in revoking so much of the original order of Gen. DIX as was published in a moment of irritation at the decision of Judge COUNSEL. The military commander at New York, in the utterance of that order, suffered his zeal to outrun his discretion; for, though it is clear by the terms of international law that the military authorities of a State invaded from neutral territory are entitled to pursue the marauding party within the confines of that territory, the right to do so is one that should be exercised with the greatest reserve in point of time and the greatest circumspection in point of manner. And there is a difference which Gen. DIX seems to have overlooked between the pursuit of an enemy in hot blood across the boundary line of a neutral territory and the utterance of an order in hot blood directing military subordinates to do so whenever the occasion seems to call for it. The propriety of such a pursuit depends upon the exigency of the case, and the consequent ability of the invaded State to show, in the words of Mr. Webster, "a necessity of self-defense, instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means, and no moment for deliberation." But the propriety of such an order could be justified only by the foresight of marauding invasions, with a deliberate purpose on the part of the neutral country to evade the performance of its neutral obligations. The failure of a single Judge in Canada to do his duty in the premises was hardly a sufficient motive for such a sweeping order as Gen. DIX's. We are glad that the President has thought proper to rescind that order within more guarded limits. As was well observed by the Detroit Free Press, in advance of the partial revocation of this order by the President, Judge COUNSEL "is an inferior magistrate, and, although his acts may be excessively annoying, although they may in effect trample upon justice, and let loose upon our borders men who deserve the punishment of death, it is the duty of men placed in the high and responsible position of Gen. DIX to defer any action which looks like a threat or retaliation until he knows whether this inferior magistrate is to be sustained by the Government of Canada. It is right and proper for the President, but not Gen. DIX, to take prompt and decided ground upon these questions, and to demand immediate action to prevent these raids."

The Toronto Globe, a paper friendly to our Government and to the present Administration, offered the following comments on the order of Gen. DIX before it knew of the President's revocation: "We think the order extremely injudicious on the part of Gen. DIX. It is possible that he is justified by the rules of international law. There can be no doubt that if a neutral fails to prevent raids from his territory, the assailed party is permitted to enter the territory and capture the assailants. But there are many things lawful which are not expedient. He has no right to presume that our Government can not or will not prevent raids in future. They are making every effort to prevent them, and there is little chance of failure. The discharge of the prisoners is an event disgraceful to the administration of justice in Montreal, but cannot be charged upon the Government, who have done all that lies in their power to secure the re-arrest of the prisoners. Until they failed to accomplish this, at all events, Gen. DIX should certainly have withheld his order. He ought to have recollected that the object of the Southern raiders here is to enliven the two countries in war, and that the object of both his Government and ours is to avoid such a result. Any thing which could create bad feeling between the two countries is exactly that which the Southerners desire. If Gen. DIX's orders were obeyed and Canadian soil invaded, there can be no doubt that our Government would be bound to retaliate, and they have earnestly undertaken to prevent raids in the future. The best course for the American Government to pursue is to insist on our authorities doing their duty in the matter, and in the mean time to refrain from any thing which will needlessly embitter public feeling on the border."

PASSPORTS—OFFICIAL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Washington, December 17, 1864.

The President directs that, except immigrant passengers directly entering an American port by sea, henceforth no traveller shall be allowed to enter the United States from a foreign country without a passport. If a citizen, the passport must be from this Department, or from some United States Minister or Consul abroad; and if an alien, from the competent authority of his own country; the passport to be countersigned by a diplomatic agent of the United States. This regulation is intended to apply especially to persons proposing to come to the United States from the neighboring British provinces. Its observance will be strictly enforced by all officers, civil, military, and naval, in the service of the United States, and the State and municipal authorities are requested to aid in its execution. It is expected, however, that no immigrant passenger, coming in manner aforesaid, will be obstructed, or any other persons who may set out on their way hither before intelligence of this regulation could reasonably be expected to reach the country from which they may have started.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

SILVER MINES IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

A letter from Anson G. Henry, Surveyor General of Washington Territory, dated Olympia, November 8, says that a new excitement has been created there by the discovery of rich silver lodes on the western slope of the Cascade mountains, near a road leading from the Sound through Natchez pass. The ore is said to pay over seven hundred dollars per ton. The location of this new discovery is about fifty miles from Olympia, over excellent ground for a wagon road. The ledge is said to be four or five miles from north to south, and from seven to fourteen feet thick.

The Internal Revenue Department has detected the Collector at Detroit in appropriating large sums of money for private speculation. The Government will not be a loser, as the Collector's bonds are ample.

MR. WELLES'S REPORT.

We to-day continue and conclude the publication of the report of the Secretary of the Navy. In this able and interesting paper, being the fourth annual exposition of the operations of the Navy since the Department has been under the direction of its present head, Mr. WELLES has thought proper to present somewhat in detail the condition of the Department and of the naval service, as in his preceding communications he had been called to exhibit the methods and measures of administration by which, from a comparatively small beginning, our vast naval power has been brought into existence; to state the contributions which have been made to it from our commercial marine; to indicate the application of all the resources of our public naval establishments to its construction and preparation for service; to show how individual energy and skill and capital have come successfully in aid of insufficient governmental provision for the due prosecution of the work, and to trace in general outline the processes and results of inventive genius and scientific experiment which have changed, to a great extent, the materials and forms of naval structure and armor and armament, and have enabled our country, while in so brief a period assuming a foremost place among maritime nations, to create also a new era in the development and application of naval force.

And we are sure that every reader, as he reviews the history recited with so much clearness and ability by the Secretary, will concur with him in the opinion that he may point with legitimate pride to an official record of a series of naval enterprises and achievements wholly without precedent or parallel. As Mr. Welles truly says, "no previous conception of efficient blockade; no former endurance under the fire of fortified batteries; no audacity and success heretofore known of naval attack upon such fortresses, through formidable submarine obstructions spread for their defence; no similar penetration by war vessels of internal waters through a reach of navigation almost continental; no other gigantic scale of co-operation of naval with army forces in expeditions and combats hundreds of miles from the seaboard, and along the course of rivers precarious and dangerous of navigation, can any where be found of a character to compare with the triumphs in all these forms of naval effort which it has been the duty of this Department during the past three years to organize and to report."

If, in the prosecution of duties "so arduous, complicated, and exacting," the trust confided to this Department shall appear to have been faithfully and fully discharged, the Secretary, it will be seen, with the generosity of an enlightened chief, shares the honor with the gentlemen associated with him in its management, and specially instances the invaluable services of the Assistant Secretary and the Chief Clerk of the Department.

A REBEL MANIFESTO IN EUROPE.

The following is the joint note addressed to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs by the agents of the rebels abroad, transmitting an official copy of the manifesto of the rebel Congress:

PARIS, NOVEMBER 11, 1864.

SIR: The undersigned, Commissioners of the Confederate States of America, in pursuance of the instructions of their Government, have the honor to present to your Excellency a copy of a manifesto issued by the Congress of said States, with the approval of the President, and which the President was requested to cause copies to be transmitted to their Commissioners abroad, to the end that the same might be by them laid before foreign Governments. They at the same time communicate a copy of the preamble and resolutions of Congress accompanying said manifesto.

The dispositions, principles, and purposes by which the Confederate States have been and are still animated are set forth in this paper with all the authority due to the solemn declarations of the legislative and executive branches of their Government, and with a clearness which leaves no room for comment or explanation. In a few sentences it is pointed out that "all they ask is immunity from interference with their internal peace and prosperity, and to be left in the undisturbed enjoyment of their inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which their common ancestry declared to be the equal heritage of all parties to a social compact. Let them forbear aggressions upon us and the war is at an end. If there be questions which require adjustment by negotiations, they are willing to be settled by the arbitration of Heaven. The undersigned beg leave most respectfully to invite the attention of the Government of his Imperial Majesty to this frank and full explanation of the attitude and purposes of the Confederate States, and to manifestly remark, in addition, that since the issuing of that manifesto the war has continued to be waged by our enemies with even increased ferocity, a more signal disregard of all the rules of civilized warfare, and more wanton violation of the obligations of international law."

The undersigned, having thus complied with the instructions of their Government, beg to assure your Excellency of the distinguished consideration with which they have the honor to be, your Excellency's most obedient servants, JOHN SLIDELL, J. M. MASON, A. DUDLEY MANN.

PAROLED PRISONERS EXCHANGED.

It having been officially reported that Mr. Ould, rebel commissioner of exchange, has declared, without consulting the authorities of the United States, that all rebel prisoners delivered for exchange or parole by the United States Government up to November 25th, 1864, are exchanged, the War Department has ordered that the Federal prisoners of war of the army and navy, and all civilians on parole for exchange, up to November 25th, 1864, be declared exchanged. All paroled officers and enlisted men declared exchanged, who are in camp, will be immediately forwarded by the commanders of camps to their regiments and commands, and will be reported to the Commissary General of Prisoners accordingly. Those who are absent on leave will, on the expiration of their leave, repair forthwith to the parole camps at Annapolis, Maryland, or Columbus, Ohio.

Some of the newspapers state that since Admiral Porter assumed command of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, (in September last), his share of prize money will amount to nearly \$300,000. Three thousand five hundred bales of cotton alone, to say nothing of other valuable cargoes and the vessels carrying them, have been captured since his assignment to that command. The cotton itself is estimated to be worth seventeen hundred thousand dollars.

At a meeting of citizens held in New York, Saturday afternoon, about \$25,000 was subscribed on the spot for a testimonial to Admiral Farragut, and it was resolved to increase it to \$100,000.

AN INADEQUATE "DOCTRINE."

We observe that the "Advocate of Peace," a periodical published under the auspices of the "American Peace Society," continues to make its appearance among us, as if there was still any portion of the people who believed in the doctrines it formerly inculcated. In fact, the Advocate seems to realize that it has a very "limited field of usefulness" in our country at the present time, and is itself somewhat embarrassed to know how to "define its position" as a periodical opposed on principle to the whole theory of war, but at the same time intensely devoted to the prosecution of the particular war in which our Government is engaged against the "slaveholders' rebellion of the South." Painfully conscious of the incongruity which exists between the creed of the Society and the practice of its modern disciples, the Advocate feels called from time to time to defend the limitations and application of its "doctrine" against the evils of such among the more thorough-going and consistent peace-men as are disposed to question the propriety of that "military strife with the Confederate States" which the Advocate upholds and sustains as a "peace paper." Explaining its "doctrine" in the current number, it says:

"Self-preservation is an instinct in every animated being, an absolute universal law. It is to keep the weak from being overpowered by the strong that man is made social and civil government is ordained. The prevalence of the doctrine of strict or entire non-resistance would introduce the reign of violence and banish peace from the earth. A State certainly has the right to preserve itself; and whatever is necessary to that end it is its right and duty to use."

"But it is replied, we must not do evil that good may come. Very well; so we think. But killing a man who converts himself into a wild beast and ravens on society is not doing evil. Society has claims upon us no less certainly than the man of violence. The greatest incentive to crime is confidence of impunity; and its sure check is the certainty of retribution. The Southern States rushed into this conflict under the assurance that Yankees would not fight, and their orators pledged themselves that 'a lady's humble would hold all the blood that would be shed.' They believed so. But their people were slow to assume the risk; and the leaders precipitated hostilities for the avowed reason that this would 'fire the Southern heart.' The North was ready to argue, and not ready to fight. The South then had the Government in their hands during long years of preparation for a forcible revolution; but they renounced an argument to do loyal process, for constructing the nation. They were resolved on a Southern oligarchy, with Cuba and Mexico annexed. They were to seize the capital. President Davis was to hold levees in the White House. The country was to be shivered and slavery and cotton to be supreme. All nature and the voice of God commanded us to resist."

"Let none be surprised at seeing in this periodical repeated declarations of our true position and object. It is sent not to subscribers only but to ministers and others in various places in single numbers, and is scattered widely by the press. The cause demands that we be explicit; and our strictly non-resistant friends and counselors have a right to know not only our ground but our reasons. We have no title of our opposition to war as a mode of settling international controversies, or as an engine of conquest, rapacity, or revenge. The custom is utterly wrong; but civil government we hold to be in its legitimate operation quite distinct from that of the war-system, and deserving not of rebuke and resistance, but of cordial support by good men in the exercise of its right to enact and enforce laws for the general weal."

It seems, therefore, that the "Advocate of Peace," and the American Peace Society of which it is the organ, are opposed to war only as "a mode of settling international controversies, or as an engine of conquest, rapacity, or revenge." They are not opposed to civil war as such—that is the war of a lawful Government against insurgents—though civil wars, above all others, are fraught with the direst evils which pertain to the war-system. A war in defence of civil government, we are told, is quite distinct from a war waged by one civil Government against another.

It is not doubted that there is a distinction between civil and international wars. But if, as the "Advocate of Peace" argues, "civil government is ordained to keep the weak from being overpowered by the strong," and if self-preservation is an absolute universal law, we are curious to learn by what process of ratiocination our contemporary arrives at the conclusion that it is lawful to defend civil government against the aggressions of a portion of its own subjects, but not against the aggressions of another power. Why should the "absolute universal law of self-preservation" be limited in its application only to cases of danger arising from within a State, and not from without? Either the logic of the Advocate is loose or its doctrine is unsound, for certain it is that the logic is too wide for the doctrine or the doctrine is too narrow for the logic. In seeking to defend enough of the war system for its present purpose, it has defended enough for the purposes of all who believe in the right of a Government to protect its life and happiness from the assaults of foreign violence as well as from the shocks of intestine commotion. When the Advocate says that, since civil war has come upon us, "peace men, like other good citizens, must leave our Government at discretion to deal with it in the usual way of employing, if it can, all the force requisite to put its laws in execution against rebels just as against any other class of criminals," we are unable to perceive the validity of the grounds on which it would deny to our Government the right to deal with foreign wrongs "in the usual way of employing all the force requisite" to maintain our interests or our rights. If it is rightful, as the Advocate not only admits but affirms, to resist unto war this attempt of a portion of our own people to wrest eleven States from the jurisdiction of the National Government, we are at a loss to understand why it should be wrongful, as the Advocate argues, to resist unto war the same attempt, should it be made by a foreign nation.

In view of the fact that the members of the American Peace Society are, without exception, so far as we know, in favor of "a vigorous prosecution of the war against the South," even to the extremity of the utter extermination of the Southern people, as openly avowed by some, we had supposed that the amiable founders of this pre-millennial association would now generally concede that in a just war it is as lawful to kill the people of a foreign nation as the brethren of our own. But in this it seems we are mistaken. To homicide on a large scale, as occurring between

two belligerent nations, the Peace Society wages a constant opposition, but to fratricide on a large scale, as occurring between two sections of the same nation, "divided, discordant, and belligerent," the same society gives its full countenance and unhesitating support. Could any thing place in a clearer light the untenable nature of the "doctrine" on which it places itself than this logical consequence of the society's present faith and practice?

We need hardly say that in exposing the fallacy of the position assumed by this association, it is no part of our purpose to make a plea for the war-system, in any of its forms. We are quite sure that we do not yield to any body of men in our abhorrence of war, whether as waged against foreign nations or in the heart of a people. But as greater evils may befall a nation than even civil war, so we are sure that there are greater evils than a foreign war, and that in a just cause the latter may be as righteously accepted as the former, whatever the Peace Society may hold to the contrary.

GEN. DIX'S ORDER MODIFIED.

The Canadian Boundary not to be Crossed by our Forces without Special Orders.

Gen. DIX issued on Saturday the following order, modifying, in obedience to instructions from the President, his order of the 14th instant relating to the pursuit of raiders beyond the Canadian border: HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST. New York City, December 17, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 100.—The President of the United States having disapproved of that portion of Department General Order No. 97, current series, which instructs all military commanders on the frontier, in certain cases therein specified, to cross the boundary line between the United States and Canada, and directs pursuit into neutral territory, the said instruction is hereby revoked. In case, therefore, of any future marauding expedition into our territory from Canada, military commanders on the frontier will report to these headquarters for orders before crossing the boundary line in pursuit of the guilty parties.

By command of Maj. Gen. DIX: D. T. VAN BUREN, Colonel and A. A. G.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE REBEL STATES.

The bill introduced in the House of Representatives on Thursday last, by Mr. ASHLEY, from the Committee on Rebellious States, proposes to provide for the appointment by the President of Provisional Governors of Rebel States, who shall take the laws of the United States and of the State before the rebellion are enforced. But no law or usage recognizing slavery is to be recognized by any officer or court in such States. The bill proposes to emancipate all slaves in such States, and provides for the discharge on habeas corpus of persons held to service on pretense of ownership. It also provides for the punishment of attempts to re-enslave emancipated persons. It declares that officers of the rank of colonel or higher in the rebel service are not citizens of the United States. The seventh section is in these words:

"The United States, in Congress here assembled, do hereby recognize the Government of the State of Louisiana, inaugurated under and by the Convention of the people of Louisiana which assembled on the 6th day of April, 1864, at the city of New Orleans, and declare the same to be entitled to the guarantee and all other rights of a State Government under the Constitution of the United States."

This section is said to have been agreed to by the reconstruction committees of both Houses, and the conclusion to report this section to have been reached through an interview with the President, in which it was intimated that his approval of the bill depended on its insertion.

The bill further provides for the calling of Conventions in States whose Governments have been usurped and overthrown, as soon as the military resistance to the United States shall have been suppressed, and the people shall have sufficiently returned to their allegiance. The Conventions are required to provide that persons in rebel military or military service of and above the grade of colonel shall not vote for or be a member of the Legislature or Governor. Involuntary servitude is prohibited, and the freedom of all persons to be guaranteed in the said States. No debt, State or Confederate, created by the usurping power, is to be recognized. If the Convention shall refuse to re-establish the State Government upon the above conditions, the Provisional Government is to declare it dissolved, and another election of delegates is to be ordered.

The bill was ordered to be printed, and was then committed to the committee from which it was reported.

FROM EUROPE.

PORTLAND, (ME.) DEC. 17, 1864.

The steamship Hibernian, Capt. Dutton, from Liverpool on the morning of the 1st, via London, on the 23d instant, arrived at this port this evening. Her dates are five days later than those already received.

Earl Russell has made the following reply to the despatch of the Confederate Commissioners and manifesto of the Southern Congress:

FOREIGN OFFICE, NOV. 25, 1864. GENTLEMEN: I have had the honor to receive the copy which you have sent me of the manifesto issued by the Congress of the so-called Confederate States of America. Her Majesty's Government deeply laments the projected nature of the struggle between the Northern and Southern States of the formerly united Republic of North America.

Great Britain has, since 1783, remained, with the exception of a short period, connected by friendly relations with both the Northern and Southern States.

Since the commencement of the civil war, which broke out in 1861, Her Majesty's Government have continued to entertain sentiments of friendship equally for the North and for the South.

Of the causes of the rupture her Majesty's Government have never presumed to judge. They deplored the commencement of this sanguinary struggle, and anxiously look forward to the period of its termination.

In the mean time they are convinced that they best consult the interests of peace and respect the rights of all parties by observing a strict and impartial neutrality. Such neutrality her Majesty has faithfully maintained, and will continue to maintain.

I request you, gentlemen, to accept, &c. RUSSELL. To J. SLIDELL, Esq., J. MASON, Esq., A. DUDLEY MANN, Esq.

The Paris Constitutionnel has published a strange paragraph, warning against pirates and corsairs. It is supposed to have been granted by Juarez. The Opinion Nationale attacks the Constitutionnel for the warning, and taunts it with having upheld the Alabama, Florida, &c. It charges the Constitutionnel with changing its opinions now that French commerce may be jeopardized by similar cruises.

The Hanoverian and Saxon troops are to be immediately withdrawn from Holstein, a very summary demand for their removal having been sent to Hanover and Dresden by the Prussian Government, supported by Austria. Le Nord asserts, on the contrary, that Austria is opposed to Prussia in this movement, and that the division between the two Governments on the question may lead to grave consequences.

A foolish fellow in Somerville (Mass.) who drank a quart of whiskey because his friend would pay for it, died in consequence of his excessive imbibition.

THE ST. ALBANS ROBBERS.

The Canada papers of Thursday report that the St. Albans robbers who were discharged by Judge Counsel have scattered in all directions. The stolen money—about \$300,000 in American currency—was given up to them, but they have left it behind, to be delivered up to the "Confederate" Government.

A special meeting of the Police Committee of the City Council of Montreal was held, on Thursday, for the purpose of instituting an investigation into the charge brought against Mr. Lamothé, chief of police, by Mr. Devlin, councillor for the St. Albans wards, and a member of the City Council, of having given up \$300,000 in stolen money to the banks to the raiders without an order, from the court, as also refusing to re-arrest the raiders when entrusted with a warrant for their purpose.

Mr. Lamothé, in a reply to the charge, questioned the jurisdiction of the committee, alleging that they had no power; that he took professional advice, and thought that the law is legally bound to give the money to the raiders immediately after the decision of the court discharging them from custody; and, in conclusion, he claimed to be heard by counsel.

Another Cabinet meeting was held at Quebec on Friday. Parliament has been summoned to meet on the 19th of January, and stipendiary magistrates have been appointed to the frontier especially to take cognizance of breaches of the international laws; and they are to be aided by a strong police force. It was publicly announced at Quebec on Friday evening that Gen. DIX's order had been disapproved by our Government.

From the Montreal Gazette of December 15th. Major Gen. DIX has issued another of his style of general orders, reiterating his instructions to shoot down, if possible, any further raiders on the spot, whether acting under commission from Richmond or not; or, if they escape, to pursue and capture them in British territory. This order is somewhat unnecessarily offensive; but we are quite prepared to make allowances for the irritation which the release of the St. Albans raiders on a mere side issue is calculated to excite. The Federal authorities could have no excuse to enter our territory in the way Gen. DIX proposes, unless we first show that we are unable to maintain the police of our frontier, or are unwilling to respect well understood principles of international law. The earnestness with which the two nations are about to take care of itself has not been right; but the Federalists have profited by that, by the aid it has afforded to kidnappers; and for the rest we have never furnished the Federalists any good reason to doubt our good faith, despite the unfortunate business of the St. Albans raiders. Our Government has acted almost too sensibly in their behalf. Our courts only know (it is the greatest boast of British subjects that it is so) the law, good or bad, as the Legislature made it. Gen. DIX's statement with regard to further raiding is a piece of cant without foundation. It may not be a simple invention of the Federalists for the purpose of clap-net, or to excite feeling, as he may have been imposed upon. If, however, we are to avoid embroilment with our neighbors, it becomes the first duty of the Government of this country to put itself in a position to detect and crush if necessary any and every attempt to be attempted in our territory. It may not be the country's little more than mere vaporing to do this; but its neglect may prove to be the most wretched of all economy. We believe that this is now the question of paramount importance for the Government of this country. Of course, Mr. Jefferson Davis will read with great delight the offensive language of Gen. DIX. If angry feeling should happen to lead to embroilment that would be playing his game. The Confederate Government is not at present friendly to England, and the Federalists are not more so. The former would probably have little compunction of conscience at seeing Britain mixed up in the struggle or promoting the result. Our Northern neighbors should remember how often they failed in their execution of their neutrality laws in 1857-58, and await the action of our Parliament before embarking in threats such as those contained in Gen. DIX's general order.

We do not think there will be any more raids from our borders. That little game is played out. Some twenty years ago it was a game of the size of the size of St. Albans for even a few hours; seize the banks, pack away as much money as their persons as they could conveniently carry—more, indeed, for they saw a good deal of it as they went along; seize horses to ride off with, and hold a great many prisoners on the part of Southern gentlemen here, which have been published in the columns of one of our contemporaries, that there will be no more raids from our borders, may be received with confidence, and that the stories of future raids which have found extended utterance in certain newspapers are simple bomb, if they have not an intent which is not so innocent as mere stupidity. These considerations, however, do not in any way lessen our strong conviction of the necessity for a strong provincial police to enforce our neutrality laws on the frontier. Any breach on which the authorities are to punish their hands should be punished with the utmost rigor of the law.

From the Montreal Herald of December 14th. There is a view of the case which it appears to us, writing as we do on the spur of the moment, is not without some appearance of justice. For there have been, in public that of the United States that each of them will hand over criminals of certain classes on demand made by the other. The decision of Mr. Counsel serves to show that we have either taken no steps, or insufficient steps to carry out our engagements. We certainly have not taken any steps to enable it to fulfill its obligations. We have made one, by blunder or neglect, in some important particular, rendered it impossible to carry out our obligation, or if possible is possible only in a nominal way, which we have positively declared to be insufficient. We do not discuss the propriety of the judgment upon this new point, suddenly raised; but if that judgment be good, it is evident that we must at once make our law conform to the treaty whose terms we have undertaken to execute.

From the Toronto Globe. The announcement of Mr. Lincoln that his Government has given the requisite notice for the termination of the treaty between Great Britain and the United States, which forbids either party having armed vessels upon the lakes between this province and the United States, is very seriously to be regretted. To Canadians especially it is a matter of very great moment. The fact that treaty has been broken is a matter of self-evident; and we have been saved from any necessity of expending our money in building and arming boats to watch similar preparations on the other side. Now the prospect is that this is all to be changed, and that we are to be left only a choice between a large outlay for naval purposes and the unpleasant alternative of residing in a state of insecurity. The parties to whom we are to owe this altered state of things are those Confederate refugees who have endeavored to make the Northern lakes the scene of piracy and robbery. Much as we regret the determination of the American Government, we cannot but be pained at it. We cannot expect Mr. Lincoln and his Ministers to sit quietly by and witness such acts as his plundering of the two steamers on Lake Erie two or three months since without taking some steps to protect the commerce of their people.

From the Montreal Witness of December 15. We learn with a satisfaction which it is difficult to express that the Canadian Government is in the most prompt and vigorous manner trying to remedy the intolerable mistake, if not worse, of our police authorities in the matter of the raiders. A telegram arrived from the Attorney General to get the water police put at the disposal of the Governor, instantly, and to dispatch these with the high constables and all other reliable men to follow the raiders and re-arrest them—the high constables being furnished with all necessary means and authority to follow them to Halifax if necessary. Every precaution has also been taken to prevent escape by Detroit or other frontier terminus of our railroads. The following special communication has been made public:

CROWN LAW DEPARTMENT, Quebec, December 15. GENTLEMEN: I am directed by the honorable the Attorney General for Lower Canada to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to inform you that the law officers of the Crown concur in the opinion expressed by you with regard to Judge Counsel's decision in the matter of the St. Albans raiders. I have with pleasure to you a copy of an order of her Majesty in Council relative to the 24th of October. G. FITZPATRICK. Clerk of L. Department.